**In the Claims:**

Please add the following claims:

1. A pipelined video decoder and decompression system for handling a plurality of separately encoded bit streams arranged as a single bit stream of digital bits, comprising:

a start code detector responsive to said single serial bit stream for generating control tokens and data tokens, a said token including a plurality of data words, each data word having an extension bit which indicates a presence of additional words therein so that said start code detector detects overlapping start codes in said bit stream, a first start code thereby being ignored and a second start code used to create start code tokens;

a token decode circuit interactively associated with said start code detector, said token decode circuit for recognizing certain of said tokens as control tokens pertinent to a respective processing stage and for passing unrecognized control tokens to a succeeding stage; and

a reconfigurable decode and parser unit responsive to a recognized control token for reconfiguring a particular stage to handle an identified data.

2. The system as recited in claim 1, further comprising first and second registers, said first register positioned as an input of said decode and parser unit and said second register positioned as an output of said decode and parser unit.

3. The system according to claim 1 wherein said single serial bit stream of digital bits includes separately encoded pairs of control codes and corresponding data carried therein.

4. The system according to claim 1 wherein said tokens are altered by said processing stages

5. A method of processing video data, comprising:

receiving video data having portions encoded in accordance with respective different video standards, the plurality of video standards defining corresponding start codes;

identifying one of the start codes included in the received video data; and

processing the received video data in accordance with the video standard corresponding to the identified start code.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the start code includes an H.261 picture start code.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the start code includes an MPEG (Motion Pictures Experts Group) start code.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the start code includes a JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) start of scan marker.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein the start code includes a start code used by a video format that encodes spatial and temporal video data.

10. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of processing includes decoding the received video data.

11. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of processing includes constructing one or more images for display based on the received video data.

12. The method of claim 5 wherein the step of processing includes rearranging one of the portions of received video data into an arrangement that complies with a different one of the video standards.

13. A method of processing video data, comprising:

receiving a first set of video data encoded in accordance with a first video standard and having a first start code defined by the first video standard;

determining the video standard of the first set of video data by identifying the first start code included in the first set of video data;

processing the first set of video data in accordance with the first video standard;

receiving a second set of video data encoded in accordance with a second video standard and having a second start code defined by the second video standard;

determining the second video standard of the second set of video data by identifying the second start code included in the second set of video data; and

processing the second set of video data in accordance with the second video standard.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of processing includes decoding.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein one of the first or the second video standards includes one of either: an MPEG (Motion Pictures Experts Group) standard, a JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) standard, or an H.261 standard.

16. A method of processing encoded video data, comprising:

receiving video data having portions encoded with respective different video standards;

determining a video standard from the respective different video standards based on one of start codes embedded in the video data;

generating tokens demarcating the received video data; and

processing the received video data in accordance with the tokens.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the video standards include at least one of the following: MPEG (Motion Pictures Experts Group), H.261, and JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group).

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the tokens include a picture start token.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the tokens include a picture end token.

20. A method of processing encoded video data at a video data processing stage, comprising:

receiving a start identification of one of several video standards of the encoded video data;

configuring the video data processing stage based on the received start identification; and

processing the video data at the configured video data processing stage in accordance with the received start identification.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the video data processing stage includes a decoder.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the decoder includes a Huffman decoder.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein the video data processing stage includes an inverse quantizer.

24. The method of claim 20 wherein the step of configuring includes determining tables used by the video data processing stage.

25. The method of claim 20 wherein the video data processing stage programmatically alters electrical signals representing the encoded video data.

26. A method of processing video data, comprising:

receiving a first video data code or marker corresponding to a first video standard;

searching video data for the received video code or marker;

receiving a second video data code or marker corresponding to a second video standard; and

searching video data for the second video data code or marker.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the first video standard includes one of the following: MPEG (Motion Pictures Experts Group, JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group), and H.261.

28. The method of claim 26 wherein the video data code or marker includes at least one of the following: a picture start code, a sequence start code, a slice start code, a start of scan marker, and a group start code.

29. A method of processing video data, comprising:

receiving video data;

determining a video standard associated with the video data;

generating one or more tokens for controlling decoding of the received video data by a decoding pipeline; and

decoding the received video data in the decoding pipeline.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein determining the video standard includes identifying a start code or marker in the received video data.

31. The method of claim 29 wherein the video standard includes at least one of the following: MPEG, JPEG, and H.261.

32. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of generating includes generating one or more tokens that configure the decoding pipeline for processing of the determined video standard.

33. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of generating includes generating one or more tokens demarcating the received video data.

34. The method of claim 29 wherein the demarcating the received video data includes identifying one or more of the following: a picture start, a picture end, a sequence start, and a group start.

35. The method of claim 29 wherein the pipeline includes a Huffman decoder.

36. The method of claim 29 wherein the pipeline includes instructions for an inverse discrete cosine transform upon a portion of the received video data.

37. The method of claim 29 wherein one of the one or more tokens includes a picture start token that identifies the start of a picture in the received video data.

38. The method of claim 29 wherein one of the one or more tokens includes a picture end token that identifies the end of a picture in the received video data.